

**Message #50****I Samuel 20:24-34**

When God's hand is on someone, they will suffer ridicule, hostility, hatred and attacks. This point is clearly seen in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. When God puts His hand on someone, there will be an all-out attempt to destroy that person.

This started in the book of Genesis with Cain and Abel, and it continues throughout the Bible. **When a person seeks to honor God, Satan seeks to destroy that person.**

That is the story of David's life. David loved the Lord. He was a very faithful and loyal man of God. He stood for the right things and God honored him for it. God chose him to be the king of Israel. Whatever he did, he did his best for God. Because of that he was hated by a majority of people. There were those who wanted him dead.

That point is obvious from this part of the Davidic biography. What we clearly see from this text is this:

**WHEN GOD'S HAND IS ON YOU, SATAN WILL SEE TO IT THAT SOME OF HIS PEOPLE ARE INSANELY JEALOUS OF YOU AND THEY WILL SEEK TO DESTROY YOU AND THOSE CLOSE TO YOU; BUT IN THE END, GOD WILL DESTROY THEM.**

That is the story of David's life right here.

Saul was insanely jealous of David. The real reason for this is that God's hand was on David and it was not on Saul. David was right with God and he wasn't. This is not just a difference of opinion or personality; one is right with God and the other isn't.

As a result of Saul's jealousy, Satan stirred Saul to the point where he wanted to destroy David and anyone connected to David, including his own son, Jonathan.

When you are where God wants you to be, there will be times when you will come under attack. Those who are close to you will also come under attack. **But you can know this with certainty, in the end God will attack and destroy your enemies. That is something clearly seen from the life of David.**

As we analyze this text, there are nine narrative observations we want to make:

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #1** – David was hiding in a field. **20:24a**

David is the man right with God. David is a man who cares about God and His word. David is a man who is interested in doing the will of God. Look at this. David is not initially reigning from the comforts of a palace; he is hiding in a field, trying to keep out of sight from those who hate him.

Sometimes, when you are right where God wants you to be, it will not be in the most plush environments. Sometimes you may be surrounded by humiliating circumstances. Stay steady. Stay trusting God, because things will eventually change.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #2** – Saul was eating in his home. **20:24b**

Notice the stark contrast between David, who is right with God, and Saul, who isn't. The one who is Satanic appears to be living in comfort. Saul is not hiding out in a field; he is in his home sitting down to eat, seemingly without any care in the world.

We need to learn an important lesson here. Just because one seems to live in luxury and seems to have a successful and comfortable life, does not mean that one is blessed by God.

Truth is Saul is on a time clock orchestrated by God heading to his demise.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #3** – Saul is surrounded by his people. **20:25**

Saul sat down to eat. He is a jealous man. At this meal were Jonathan, his noble and honorable son, and Abner, Jonathan's cousin, who was a warrior of great distinction. David should have been at this meal, but of course he is out hiding in the field.

It is brought out that Saul sat "by the wall." What we learn is that he was a paranoid nut. He always sat with his back to the wall, so no sniper could get at him. When we were in Idaho, there was a man in our church who had been an undercover agent for law enforcement. Actually I still hear from his family from time to time. But anyway, we would often go to lunch and he would always sit with his back to the wall. He told me that he was responsible for putting many people behind bars and he always wanted the protection of a wall behind his back. That was Saul.

Now you would think when you are in a room with Jonathan and Abner, there would be no need to sit with your back to the wall. What this shows us is that Saul lived in constant fear and paranoia.

Just because a person lives in a spectacular house and is surrounded by family and friends, does not mean that person lives a secure and peaceful life. In fact, if one is not right with God, he is not secure. Some of the most insecure people you will ever meet are people who appear to be very successful at what they do.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #4** – Saul assumes David's absence is due to his uncleanness. **20:26**

This is just amazing to see. Saul is the one who is not right with God and he assumes in his own delusional mind that the reason David is not there is because David is not right with God. He just invents this.

His assumption is David is unclean and the reason why he is not there at the table is because of some ceremonial uncleanness (Lev. 7:20-21; 15:16-18). Saul must make up some fictitious interpretation for why David is not at this meal.

In all reality, **David is not at this meal because of some sin problem David has; he is not at this meal because of the sin problem Saul has.**

Here is a great look at religious hypocrisy. Saul is the one who lives life contrary to God's word and will and he projects his own problem onto David.

People who are Satanic lie and reverse reality. People who are not right with God invent things not true in their own minds. They do this and actually believe they are doing what is right. This is the ultimate level of Satanic hypocrisy.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #5** – Saul asks about David. **20:27**

The next day, David again did not show up for the meal. Saul wanted to know why David hadn't shown up for the past couple of days. Again this shows you the insanity of Saul. Why would David want to sit down and have a meal with people who want him dead? He has thrown spears at his head; he has put out a hit contract on David; he sent David into battle hoping he would get killed and then he sent three groups of men plus himself to kill David. Why would you think he would be happy to come to dinner with you?

People who are Satanic are bizarre. They pretend to be what they are not. They pretend to be your friend. They pretend to be interested in your life. They pretend to care. It is all a Satanic lie.

Saul should have been saying if I were David, I wouldn't want to come anywhere near me.

By the way, here is another interesting point to see. Satanic enemies are very interested in what you are doing and what is going on in your life.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #6** – Jonathan gives Saul a reason for David's absence.  
**20:28-29**

For Jonathan, this comes down to an either or choice. He must decide whether or not he will stand with David, which means standing against Dad or whether he will stand with Dad which means standing against David.

Jonathan said to his Dad that David had come to him and requested that he be able to go back to Bethlehem if he had found favor in my sight. Jonathan said he has found favor in my sight so I let him go.

Jonathan is admitting to his Dad that David had found favor in his sight and he is telling Saul that he is responsible for David's absence.

He is truly a good friend to David. He is taking responsibility for his own actions. When we come under attack, God will raise up certain people at just the right time to help.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #7** – Saul is angered by Jonathan. **20:30-31**

When Saul learned that Jonathan liked David and favored David, his temper exploded. He verbally started attacking his own son. He makes four statements to Jonathan:

**Statement #1** - You are the son of a perverse and rebellious woman. **20:30a**

Jonathan had no say in this. Saul chose the woman who gave birth to Jonathan.

**Statement #2** - Your choice to favor David is shameful to you and your mother. **20:30b**

In all reality, this choice honors God and brings great honor to Jonathan. The shameful person here is Saul. This choice didn't shame Jonathan before God; it exalted Jonathan before God.

**Statement #3** - You will never be King as long as David is alive. **20:31a**

Here is another of Saul's delusional lies. Jonathan was never going to be the next king. Samuel had made that point clear. No one from Saul's line would be the next king of Israel.

**Statement #4** - You must bring David to me so I can kill him. **20:31b**

Here is the heart of the matter: Saul wants David dead.

Satanic people are liars. They do not tell the truth. Their goal is to destroy one right with God.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #8** – Saul attempts to kill Jonathan. **20:32-33**

We may remember that when Jonathan was speaking with David, he said, "if I am still alive" after speaking with his father, he wanted David to spare him and his family (20:14-15). Jonathan was not exaggerating on this point. His father was so evil he could snap and kill his own son simply because David was his friend.

When Jonathan heard this, he asked two questions:

**Question #1** - Why should David be put to death? **20:32a**

This is a fair question. Why should David be put to death? This is a legitimate question. Jonathan is supposed to go out and bring in David for Saul to kill and he wants to know why.

**Question #2** - What has David actually done? **20:32b**

There is a statement that is often given in the media that says, “The devil is in the details.” As we have said many times, the devil is never in the details, God is in the details. The devil does not want one to know the details. The devil wants one to do things emotionally, irrationally and without knowledge or sanity.

The two questions Jonathan asks are good detail questions. When Jonathan asked Saul those questions, instead of him answering, he fired his spear at his own son. The truth of those questions hit him hard and he only has two options: 1) Admit the truth and repent; 2) Don't admit the truth and try to destroy the one presenting the truth.

Now when Jonathan asked his father those questions, Saul threw his spear at Jonathan (**v. 33**). When a person is convicted, one thing that can happen and often does happen is violent reaction against someone.

Just recently the Attorney General of the United States asked a question to the Democrats who had been belittling him. He asked them will any of you condemn the fact or speak out against the fact that buildings are being burned down by a mob of violent protestors. They lit into him and would not let him speak. Why? What he said convicted them and they knew it. They are like Saul.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #9** – Jonathan was angry with Saul. **20:34**

This is a key turning point in the narrative. Jonathan was very angry with his father because he knew his own father was a liar.

Jonathan was already on David's side. Saul knew that. But this was the last straw. Jonathan was more determined than ever to defend David. He was more determined to stand for what was right and help David any way he could. He saw his father for what he was.

Saul would eventually be destroyed.

When you are where God wants you to be, don't be surprised if some hate you and make up lies against you. Stay faithful and watch what God will do. He may cause the most unlikely people to rally around you.

In the end, you will win and they will lose. You have God's word on that!